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cont.  
protective cap 60 used to protect the cartridge from contamination or damage to the plunger 16.  
The housing 14 may be made in a clamshell or disassembled manner for easy withdrawal.

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### REMARKS

The Examiner has allowed Claims 1-17 over the prior art of record and issued a Notice of Allowance.

However, the Examiner has objected to the changes made to the drawings filed November 6, 2002 in response to the First Office dated September 10, 2002. The Examiner argues that reference numeral "36" as shown in Figure 3 in the proposed drawing correction filed November 6, 2002 is incorrect. Reference numeral "36" is directed to a "cylindrical tube" and not to the "central axis" as set forth on page 13, line 10. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, The Examiner states the applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The balance of this Response will respond to the each cited basis of objection.

#### Traverse Examiner's Amendment/Comments to Drawings

The Examiner argues that reference numeral "36" as shown in Figure 3 in the proposed drawing correction filed November 6, 2002 is incorrect. Reference numeral "36" is directed to a "cylindrical tube" and not to the "central axis" as set forth on page 13, line 10. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, The Examiner states the applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

In a telephone call discussion with the Examiner on December 6, 2002, the Examiner agreed to an amendment of the Detailed Description to remove any confusion between the drawings and the written specification. The Examiner has agreed to identifying the central axis as reference numeral 36 and removal of the words "cylindrical tube" from Page 13, lines 10 and 12. The words "cylindrical tube" is to be replaced with "housing 14" to maintain consistency within the specification. The Examiner requested such consistency within the specification when identifying and referencing components of the invention.

To maintain consistency within the specification as required by the Examiner, the Applicant has amended Page 13, lines 10 and 12 to replace the words "cylindrical tube" with "housing 14". As stated on Page 13, line 5, the housing consists of a cylindrical tube that is sealed at the upper end. To maintain consistency within the specification, the housing will be referenced. The central axis has been identified by reference numeral 36, which corresponds with the proposed drawing change.

As discussed with the Examiner, no further corrections to the drawings were required.

The Applicant asserts that no new matter has been added to the specification. The Applicant further asserts that all discrepancies between the written specification and the drawings have been corrected as discussed with and agreed upon by the Examiner during the telephone call on December 6, 2002.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicant respectfully requests the amendments to the specification be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this document and those referred to as attached are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" to Box Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2002.

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Eric G. Masamori

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification:**

Paragraph beginning at Page 13, Line 5 has been amended as follows:

In the preferred embodiment, the housing 14 consists of a cylindrical tube that is sealed at the upper end, as shown in FIG. 3. The housing 14 is preferably made of plastic, however, any suitable commercially available material may be used. The bottom 38 of the housing is preferably open and the inner surface 42 of the housing is threaded. Any standard or metric thread size may be used. A plunger 16 is preferably connected to the sealed end 50 and is suspended in alignment with the central axis ~~of the cylindrical tube 36 of housing 14.~~ The housing 14 is sized to threadedly receive the cartridge 12. In the preferred embodiment, there is a plurality of openings 44 cut through the housing 14 parallel to the central axis ~~of the cylindrical tube 36 of housing 14.~~ These openings 44 allow for normally trapped air to be exhausted as the plunger 16 either advances or retards. The plurality of openings 44 also creates an inspection window 46 within the housing 14. The inspection window 46 also allows access to the optical or electromagnetic strip within the encoded area 24. A lip 48 at the bottom 38 of the housing 14 provide for a manually removable protective cap 60 used to protect the cartridge from contamination or damage to the plunger 16. The housing 14 may be made in a clamshell or disassembled manner for easy withdrawal.